



TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Hicks Municipal Center  
Council Chambers  
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING

7:30 – 10:00 P.M.

**VISION STATEMENT**

*To represent education at its best, preparing each student for an ever-changing society, and becoming a full community of learning where excellence is achieved through each individual's success.*

**2018-2019 GOALS**

- *Support and encourage specialized programs that can serve as alternatives to outplacement*
- *Support and encourage the development of tuition programs*
- *Support the implementation of Mastery Learning and Responsive Education initiatives*
- *Support and encourage Curriculum Development, and Teaching & Learning best practice*
- *Engage in the Strategic Prevention Framework*
- *Engage the Superintendent to explore and research shared service opportunities*
- *Engage Town, State, and Federal officials to discuss and advocate for education*
- *Foster the continued development of instructional technology*

**AGENDA**

August 28, 2019

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- August 14, 2019

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2 minute limit)

*The members of the Tolland Board of Education welcome members of the public to share their thoughts and ideas at this time. When appropriate to do so, members of the Board and the administration may respond to comments during "Points of Information". However, in*

*consideration of those in attendance and in an effort to proceed in a timely manner, follow-up discussion may need to take place outside of the meeting setting.*

- D. CORRESPONDENCE
- E. POINTS OF INFORMATION
- F. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT – Fisher Thompson and Alexandra Costa
- G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
- H. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS
- I. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
- J. BOARD ACTION
- K. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2-minute limit)  
*Comments must be limited to items on this agenda.*
- L. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Town Council Meeting Minutes –August 13, 2019

- M. FUTURE
- N. EXECUTIVE SESSION-For the Purpose of a discussion concerning a privileged attorney client communication regarding the authority of a Board of Education and a Town Council member.
- O. NEW BUSINESS
- P. ADJOURNMENT

**TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Hicks Municipal Center  
Council Chambers  
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING – August 14, 2019

Members Present: Ms. Colleen Yudichak, Chair; Ms. Karen Moran, Vice Chair; Mr. Sam Adlerstein, Ms. Michelle Harrold, Ms. Kate Howard-Bender, Ms. Jane Pasini, Ms. Christina Plourd, Mr. Jeff Schroeder

Members Absent: Mr. Bob Pagoni

Administrators Present: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent of Schools

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Yudichak called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 26, 2019
- July 16, 2019 – Special Meeting.

Ms. Harrold noted she was incorrectly referred to as Mr. Harrold in the motion in the Executive Session during the July 16, 2019 Special Meeting.

Jeff Schroeder made a motion to accept the above referenced minutes as amended, seconded by Sam Adlerstein. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2 minute limit) – None.

D. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Harrold shared correspondence received supporting the ECS money allocated, and a student email regarding the delay in teacher assignments being a challenge.

E. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Dr. Willett noted that in preparation for the start of the school year, teams of teachers worked over the summer to place students where they felt they would be most successful.

F. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Fisher Thompson & Alexandra Costa

The Board welcomed new student representative, Alexandra Costa. Fisher Thompson said he met the new Assistant Principal hire, Mr. Poland today. He also noted Freshmen Orientation for the high school will be held on August 27.

G. SUPERINTDENT'S REPORT

G.1 Proclamation

Ms. Harrold said the Board wanted to recognize those who have helped them get as far as they have to date with Birch Grove Primary School, and the crumbling foundation issue. A lot of effort and energy has been expended on the town's behalf. Ms. Yudichak read the proclamation. Ms. Moran presented framed copies of the proclamation to Town Manager Steve Werbner, to Dr. Walt Willett (to be shared also with the Central Office staff), to Tom Swanson, Principal of Birch Grove, and one for town staff. Also recognized were State Representatives Pat Wilson Pheanious and Tim Ackert, State Senator Dan Champagne, and Konstantinos Diamantis, the State's Director of the Office of School Construction Grants and Review. Those present at the meeting gathered for photographs.

Representative Wilson Pheanious provided the Board with a copy of the letter she, Representative Ackert and Senator Champagne wrote to the State about Birch Grove's crumbling foundation. She also provided copies of Public Acts for their information.

Ms. Moran recognized the tremendous and herculean efforts that each of those recognized put into the effort and she thanked them all. Dr. Willett said they have amazing staff on the town side and representatives of the community and what was accomplished is unheard of. It was a major victory for the town and he is very thankful to all involved. Representative Ackert also praised Representatives Bobby Sanchez and Kathy McCarty for their efforts after they approached them to get as much money as possible for the rebuild. Representative Wilson Pheanious agreed, saying she was very proud to work on behalf of Tolland.

Mr. Adlerstein asked if the situation with Birch Grove has done anything to raise the visibility of the crumbling foundation issue in this area. Representative Wilson Pheanious said it has made a dent, but there is still a lot of work to be done. She said there are still issues with the quarry, and people need to recognize that this is a state problem. She added that the \$100 million funding program in the state budget is not guaranteed and they will continue to need advocacy. Representative Ackert said Governor Lamont is making it an issue and his administration is making it a focus.



G.2 Teacher Evaluation Plan Update

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment G.1 (G.2). This change formalizes the Progress Monitoring option in Category 3 of the teacher evaluation plan and will encourage teachers to choose rigorous goals.

Ms. Moran asked if the State was looking at this option. Dr. Willett said the State is, that feedback has been good, and without this option, teachers tended to have to set more conservative goals.

Ms. Plourd asked if there were any cons to adopting this option. Dr. Willett said he did not see any, adding there has been a need for amending Category 3 for some time and it is in the purview of districts to request changes as needed.

Ms. Moran made a motion to move Item G.2 to Item J.2 for action. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adlerstein. All were in favor. Motion carried.

G.3 ECS Update/Discussion

Ms. Howard-Bender said she was extremely disappointed that the money the state gave back to Tolland is not going to be used to further their budget, noting multiple Town Council members had said they would give this money back to the BOE and did not.

Mr. Adlerstein said the Town Council and BOE need to have an icebreaker event. He said he was not sure what was at stake was articulated well at the Town Council meeting last night. They will now be looking at things like higher pay-to-participate fees, and fewer interventionists at the high school and middle school level. He said he felt this was education money and that it was made clear to the State and that the State decided that need was great enough.

Ms. Harrold said they are certain to incur incidental temporary operating expenses for the Birch Grove School that they had not expected to have to fund.

Fisher Thompson said that as a student, he was disappointed. He said he knows the BOE looks after students, as does the Administration and teachers, but that he is disappointed in some of the town's representatives. He said students need to be supported and they need proper funding for students and for professional development. He said the town has the means to support students more than they do right now.

Ms. Yudichak said she was also disappointed, but they have to look at how they are going to move forward.

Ms. Moran said she understood the town had a fund for unexpected expenses.

Ms. Harrold said she felt the working agreement between the Town Council and BOE had not been followed this budget season.

Mr. Adlerstein said it appears that the Town Manager and Town Council felt there was a need to put money into the Tax Stabilization Fund. He said there is money in the Unassigned Reserve Balance, and that a mailer from a few months ago indicated there was \$7.7 million in that fund. He said the Council can decide what to do with that fund. He said the ability to fund the town's educational needs has gone down, while at the same time the rainy day fund has increased.

Ms. Harrold, Mr. Adlerstein, and Ms. Moran all said they would like to have a joint meeting with the Town Council to discuss these issues. Mr. Schroeder said that when they had uncertain ECS numbers that there was an agreement made between the Council and the BOE that the money would be split with 75 percent going to the BOE and 25 percent to the Town. He said this was discussed formally in joint meetings. Ms. Yudichak said that was brought up at the Town Council meeting last night, but they would not discuss it.

Ms. Moran said they have talked about the need for intervention staff. Ms. Howard-Bender said intervention is a thorny issue to discuss, due to the need to respect privacy rights. She said there are too many variables, making it impossible to predict who will need services. The privacy issue makes it difficult to discuss cost-saving measures employed to keep kids in town.

Mr. Adlerstein discussed a request for information from Town Council member Paul Reynolds. He said the Board should make a goal to make sure the Town Council gets whatever information they need including minutes, and other compiled information. He said a lot of the information is context dependent and they spend a lot of time reviewing information prompted by FOIA requests.

Ms. Harrold reiterated that a joint meeting would be helpful. Ms. Moran said there has been a lack of collaboration, and it has been difficult to get the Town Council on board and have a desire for a true understanding of the impact on schools.

Dr. Willett said they have provided information requested from the Town Council. With respect to Mr. Reynolds, the BOE fulfills all legal requirements of their FOIA requests. Mr. Adlerstein suggested Ms. Yudichak try to find out if the Town Council was satisfied with the information provided. Dr. Willett reminded the Board that the FOIA request came from one member and may not be representative of the entire Council. Ms. Yudichak shared an email response after the information was provided, thanking them for the information and expressing appreciation for the BOE's effort.



Fisher Thompson said he feels it necessary to note that, as a senior, he will not likely be impacted by this budget very much, but there is a lot of statistical information available around the lack of special services for kids who need it. He said, historically, if those services are removed or degraded that it affects them exponentially. He discussed the importance of funding SRBI/RTI. He said historically when money is taken from one budget year and promised to be replaced the next year, it doesn't happen. Ms. Yudichak noted that kids who don't get interventionist services tend to end up on special education plans, which ultimately costs the town more.

Ms. Plourd said they know the impact as they voted on a budget. Dr. Willett said they can break down the specific impacts at their next meeting. Mr. Adlerstein said they should incorporate into that discussion the impact of the lack of a curriculum director, grant development and confirming whether the information provided was satisfactory. Dr. Willett said the Board could reach out to the Town Council to see if it was satisfied with the information provided.

G.4 Birch Grove Primary School update

Dr. Willett reiterated his appreciation for the herculean efforts of the various people involved with the school project. He said the portable rooms are very nice and the construction staff is doing a good job. He said they could start school as early as August 28, 2019, but teachers will be unpacking for five days and clean up would be difficult.

Dr. Willett proposed instead to push back the start of school districtwide to September 3, after Labor Day. Students would start on September 3, while staff would start on August 21. This would give them ample time to clean and handle any other anomalies. They could then phase in a quasi-type "meet and greet" the first day, staggering by grades with a half day schedule. This plan would give everyone a chance to see the building. The revised school calendar would have an end of year date of June 15, if there are no snow days. He asked that the Board add G.5 for the TPS calendar amendment.

Ms. Howard-Bender said the new calendar might be difficult for a lot of parents having to make plans for additional child care until the start of school. Ms. Harrold said it would be good to firm up a start date and end the uncertainty for parents. She asked Dr. Willett if he would put some update pictures on the Birch Grove website. Ms. Moran noted that the high school graduation date for seniors will remain unchanged.

Mr. Adlerstein made a motion to add Item G.5, TPS Calendar Amendment to the Agenda. All were in favor and motion carried.

G.5 TPS Calendar Amendment

Dr. Willett provided copies of the amended TPS calendar dated August 14, 2019, which the Board reviewed.

Ms. Harrold made a motion to move Item G.5 to J.2 for action. The motion was seconded by Ms. Howard-Bender. All were in favor. Motion carried.

H. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Finance and Facilities – Mr. Schroeder reported they will be meeting next Monday and will discuss if they need to do an end of year reconciliation.

Communications – Ms. Moran said they met this evening and discussed another way to engage the broader community in the schools. She said the last time they did a “State of the Schools” event was in 2011 at the high school. She said it can be difficult to engage parents and the greater community in the school system and this could possibly be made part of one of Dr. Willett’s community workshops. She said they also discussed municipal budgeting and a workshop opportunity. She said with the new Town Manager starting soon, this might be something he and Dr. Willett can meet on. She said they also talked about strategic prevention and that the Congregational church has expressed an interest in getting involved with mental health services.

Negotiations – Ms. Harrold said they are in the process of negotiating with teachers and administrators. She said the Policy Committee has not yet met.

I. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT – None.

J. BOARD ACTION

J.1 Teacher Evaluation Plan Update

Mr. Adlerstein made a motion to accept and approve the updated Tolland Public School Professional Development Plan dated August 14, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schroeder. All were in favor. Motion carried.

J.2 TPS Calendar Amendment

Ms. Harrold made a motion to approve the TPS calendar amendment dated August 14, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Howard-Bender.

Ms. Plourd asked for and was provided clarification on how this would help with the start of school for students at Birch Grove. Mr. Schroeder noted that June 28 and 29 could be made available for snow days. There was a brief discussion that late in June, temperatures tend to be too hot.



A vote was taken on the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

K. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2-minute limit)

Katie Murray, Chair of the Birch Grove Building Committee, wanted to inform the BOE that their Committee is working hard in collaboration with all of town staff. She said their role with the modulars are very limited, but they are hearing the same information about the time frame to get ready and have everything ready for the start of school. She said with regard to the new building, they are getting started with initial concepts, are actively meeting, and the process is moving quickly. While they are under the purview of the Town Council, she said if the BOE needs anything from them, feel free to reach out.

Liz Costa of 54 Josiah Lane said she was disappointed with the lack of direct collaboration with regard to ECS funding. She asked the Board to consider researching if the tax stabilization fund is part of the town's charter. Ms. Costa discussed a petition calling for the Town Council to allocate \$382,501 from the unassigned fund balance to the Board of Education for cost avoidance measures and to invest in the quality of education, and she urged anyone interested in signing the petition to see either her or Katie Murray.

Tammy Nuccio of 71 Webber Road, and a member of the Town Council, defended the decisions of the Town Council at their meeting in a written statement. She noted the BOE has added several positions, various programs, supervisors and intervention resources. She referenced good test scores, graduation rates and Tolland's high rate of students going on to higher education. Her time exceeded the allowable limit and she said she would forward the full email to the Board.

Dana Philbin of 11 Harvest Lane said she was disheartened by the strife between the Town Council and BOE, and that there is a need to remove the anger and distrust. She said she appreciated Dr. Willett's revised school calendar and said it would be good to provide the reasons for the change.

Jayden Regisford of 68 Old Stafford Road thanked Fisher Thompson for his comments. He said he felt success should not be based on graduation rates or test scores but on what each individual feels the definition should be. He said he had to spend a lot of money on his activities as a high school student as his parents had limited funds, and that can be a challenge for many students.

L. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Town Council Meeting Minutes – June 25, 2019

Town Council Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2019

Town Council Meeting Minutes – July 23, 2019

Town Council Special Meeting Minutes – July 30, 2019

Dr. Willett provided end-of-year balance data back to the 2011/2012 budget year, noting they have to act conservatively when they don't know the information. He said they do have fewer intervention services, which some saw as superfluous and could be reduced. He referred to the Q&A section on the BOE site for more information. He said the staff on both sides work hard and it can create fear and negativity when incomplete information gets tossed about.

Dr. Willett said he is down crucial staff, making it difficult to do important grant work. He said while they do comply with all FOIA requests, he would prefer people not ask for information to make a point when other information is available as there is a lot of work involved in providing the information. He discussed various good things going on in the District, including the positive benefits from the LEAP program.

Ms. Yudichak reiterated that a joint meeting with the Town Council would be helpful.

Ms. Harrold said she feels the Board is being forced to choose between investing in good programs and, with a minimum, getting a curriculum director.

Fisher Thompson noted that Jayden Regisford has been a successful student and thanked him for reminding everyone that success is defined by one's good intentions. He took issue with some of the comments made by Ms. Nuccio during the public participation portion of the meeting.

Ms. Harrold noted that she received an invitation to a kickoff event on September 10 from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, which might provide grant opportunities for Tolland. She will forward the invitation to Dr. Willett.

Mr. Adlerstein thanked Katie Murray for attending the meeting and providing an update.

Ms. Moran said the Birch Grove process is ongoing and she wants to continue to acknowledge all those involved as the process continues. She particularly thanked the Friends of Birch Grove for their efforts.

M. FUTURE

- Dr. Willett will create programs for the Board members annually (this includes school tours)
- Pathways
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning
- Strategic Prevention Framework
- Mental Health Services

- Budget
- Regionalization
- Birch Grove Update

N. NEW BUSINESS – None.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Howard-Bender made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Adlerstein. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Annie Gentile  
Clerk (substitute)



## MEETING MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
TOLLAND, CT

**TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL** 2019 AUG 15 AM 8:18  
**HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER**  
**6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR COUNCIL ROOM** *Shirley M. Bailey*  
**AUGUST 13, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Skoczulek, Vice-Chair; Brenda Falusi; Tammy Nuccio; John Reagan; Paul Reynolds and Christine Vincent

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** William Eccles, Chair

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steven Werbner, Town Manager; Barbara Pettijohn, Director of Library Services; Nancy Dunn, Assistant Director – Human Services

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** David Skoczulek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Observed.
4. **PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:** None
5. **PUBLIC PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** *(on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council) (2 minute limit):*

**George Eldridge of Fish & Game Road:** He thought the extra money from the State was going towards the new fire truck. If it doesn't, where will that money come from. The money should go into a rainy day fund. There will be a lot more expenditures coming up next year.

**Liz Costa of Josiah Lane:** Give the money back to the BOE.

**Sam Adlerstein of 164 Pine Hill Road:** He encourages the Council to have a robust conversation tonight. He asks that they explain where the money is coming from. He said the BOE went to the State and convinced them that they needed the money, and claims that is why Tolland received the additional funds.

**Deirdre Goldsmith of 21 Marlborough Glade:** She said the money from the State is not a windfall, and it is for education. Tolland needs a curriculum coordinator.

**Kenny Trice of 53 Doe Run:** He agrees with Mr. Adlerstein and Ms. Goldsmith. He said that if this money was given to us from the State for education, the Council should tread lightly. From a political perspective, if these funds are allotted for education, and we use the money for other reasons, down the road we could run into a situation.

**Katherine Howard-Bender of 103 Goose Lane:** She sent the Council an e-mail, which she read into the record, and is attached to the minutes. Although, prior to reading the e-mail, she said it was sad that they, the Council and the BOE, did not meet and have this conversation in public.

**Colleen Yudichak of 12 Blueberry Hill Road:** The State has helped us, because they advocated for it. They are not seeking the entire amount; they suggest a 75% | 25% split. She would like the Council to make a decision tonight, and not wait for a new Council to be in place. She also commented that there are 21 openings on the HR site. They will be scrambling to hire teachers if this is not acted on soon.



**Dana Philbin of 11 Harvest Lane:** She is concerned with the way some of the funds are being allocated. We should be doing what was intended with those funds. They need to continue to make sure that Tolland keeps that small town charm.

**Carl Rossow of 8 Hillcrest Drive:** Why hasn't the Council and BOE come together to talk about this? He wants an answer from each Council member.

*David Skoczulek said now is not the appropriate time to question each Council member individually. If they would like, they can address this in the actual agenda item.*

**Claudette Morehouse of 89 Merlot Way:** She knows that everyone wants their piece, but there is another issue in town, and it is the contaminated wells. The town needs to find the cause and a solution to this problem. She has spent almost \$30,000 in repairs. Is Tolland working with DEP at all? Any help and input that the Council can give would be appreciated. She suggests that they take part of that money and set it aside, because the well problem will be a bigger issue down the road.

6. **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:** None.

7a. **REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL:** **Tammy Nuccio, Rec Board:** She was unable to attend the meeting, but did find out that they are in the process of ordering their playscape for the preschool program; the summer attendance was up from years prior; and they are starting the Fall programming now. **Brenda Falusi, PZC:** there was talk about gas station signage; they discussed medical marijuana. **Sustainable CT:** Discussion occurred on how they could get some more points so that they could get items added to the website. **Tourism Commission:** They are looking to see where they can spend money for tourism. **EDC:** They will be having a meeting with the four (4) towns on Thursday. **Hartford Giving:** In September, they will be having a meeting. The Foundation has set aside money for each town for grants. She reminded that the **Ag Commission's Farm-to-Table** tickets need to be bought by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

7b. **REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS:** **Colleen Yudichak, BOE:** A new vice-principal was hired for the high school.

8. **NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):**

8.1 Consideration and action on approving the revised Library Technical Coordinator Job Description.

Mr. Werbner said the main change has to do with the removal of duties related to acquisitions and serials. These functions have been streamlined and are currently done by the Library Director and another employee. This allows the Technical Coordinator to focus on the more technological aspects of the position that have become more prevalent in today's Libraries. There will be no impact to the budget with this request.

Tammy Nuccio motioned to accept the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby approves the attached revised CSEA union group Library Technical Coordinator Job Description.

Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.

8.2 Discussion on timeline for determining disposition of additional FY 2019-20 Revenues.

David Skoczulek said their packet included the Town Manager's suggested revenue options, and various Board & Commission suggested revenue options. Mr. Skoczulek provided his perspective as to why there was no meeting with the BOE. It was sort of a drift from when they first knew they were going to get the ECS funds. There were conversations, and requests from the Chair and Vice-Chair of the BOE to have a joint meeting. The concept of the



joint meeting was moved out while they requested information from the Town Manager, Boards, Commissions and town staff. At some point, it was decided that this was not going to be a conversation on disposition, but on timeline. The agenda item tonight is for a timeline. After each Council member states their opinion, they will decide where to go.

Paul Reynolds said he thinks they need to act on this as soon as possible. He wanted to make the point that the town has funded the BOE 1% more than last year's budget. So, it isn't an issue that this money is funding the BOE, it is reimbursement for the budget that the town has provided to the BOE to help offset the mill rate. They need to take into consideration what they have increased the taxes to the tax payer, and the amount of money they funded the BOE. He would like additional information too, such as how last year finished out, so that they can assess what they need to do with the BOE's spending. He was concerned because they had a large increase in spending at the end of last year's budget. He requested from the Superintendent a listing of all the purchase orders that were issued in the last quarter of the year. He did get feedback from the Superintendent stating that it would take a lot of time, and that it currently wasn't available. He didn't care for that answer, so he sent in a Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request. He has received a response telling him that he needs to pay .50 per page, with no idea of the timeframe or amount of documents. He needs more information.

Brenda Falusi said she is concerned that a huge FOIA request was sent to our Superintendent while he is dealing with building a new school, preparing for the school system, being a curriculum coordinator and doing a lot of other jobs. It will take up a lot of time, energy and use a lot of the tax payer's money to come up with that information. When reviewing what the department heads have said, 10 out of 22 said that they would like the monies to go to the BOE, and 2 others had special BOE projects that they listed. Residents, BOE members and all those who voted for them have advised where they would like the money to go. They need to make sure that all of their residents are getting the services that they need for their tax money. They have shown throughout the months that the curriculum director and the SRBI/ RTI are critical in order to address the needs of our students. She thinks they should make a motion tonight to decide what to do with this money. The longer they wait, the longer all of the departments have to wait to make plans for the year. This is 2019/2020 money. If they wait, they may not be able to apply this money to things that are needed now.

**Brenda Falusi made a motion that they decide how they are going to allocate the ECS funds this evening and proposed 75% to go to the BOE; and 25% for other town expenses to be determined from the lists provided by Mr. Werbner.**

**The motion was not seconded, or acted upon**

Ms. Nuccio asked for clarification on the numbers from Mr. Werbner. She said when they are seeing ECS reductions; they are not aptly reducing the BOE budget. They are still seeing increases. It is not a matter of their budget being cut, because it has increased at the same time. She commented that she contacted the State for an OLM (legislative memo) on ECS, and the feedback that she received was that the ECS grant is to offset the cost of education, regardless if it is \$500,000 more or \$300,000 less. The money is there to offset the cost of education, and so long as the education budget is higher than the ECS you are doing what you should with it. Ms. Nuccio said they have overburdened the tax payers enough. As far as voting on this tonight, she would not be comfortable doing so. She is not in favor of increasing any budget. Ms. Nuccio commented that they also advocated for this to be a lesser cut than the governor initially asked for.

John Reagan said they have heard from a lot of different people. As a resident, he says it should go back to the tax payer. As a member of the council, his view is that the money is being used for education, because if it is put aside to offset the future increases, he sees that as being used for education. He thinks they need to look at the future and future ECS. He thinks it needs to be used to off-set the future cuts. What are we going to do in the future when the cuts are going to continue? If positions are going to be added, what will happen to those positions next year?

Christine Vincent said she likes the idea of offsetting it for future costs. She thanked everyone for their e-mails. She questions how do they use those dollars to best serve the entire community?

David Skoczulek said he has struggled with this. They have discussed what they think the next few years will look like. He thanked everyone for all their emails. He would like to see an economic stabilization fund as part of this. Between the Birch Grove issue, the crumbling foundation issue and well issue, he believes they need to be conservative. He isn't sure he would advocate giving it back to the tax payers; just because he thinks they know they can do things with it, like a stabilization fund. Ms. Vincent said she likes the idea of the economic stabilization fund.

Discussion continued on this agenda item. It was determined that Mr. Werbner would provide them with details regarding a policy that would prevent this from having to be a year-by-year discussion. He suggests that 75% could go into a tax stabilization fund, and 25% could go into the non-recurring account for capital items for both the town and BOE. They did have a model in place, which he will pull back out for their review. He also had recommended previously that \$100,000 be set aside for salt related environmental concerns.

This item will be put on the next agenda.

- 8.3 Consideration of a resolution to authorize the submission of an application for the FY2019- 2021 Connecticut State Department of Children and Families Youth Service Bureau Enhancement Grant, in the amount of \$8,588 annually.

Mr. Werbner said the Youth Service Bureau is a function of Tolland Human Services. The goal of Youth Services is to plan, organize, implement and evaluate prevention, child and adolescent development, and outreach programs for youth and their families that provide opportunities for participants to thrive and function as responsible members of the community.

Ms. Dunn made a correction. This isn't a Youth Service Bureau grant for running the Youth Service Bureau. That was approved at the last meeting. This is an enhancement grant. This grant is strictly for direct services. It can be applied toward Juvenile Review Board case management. It has to be for direct services, not for the running of the actual Youth Service Bureau.

Tammy Nuccio motioned to accept the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Tolland Town Manager, and in his absence the Acting Town Manager, is hereby authorized to make, execute and approve on behalf of the Town of Tolland the FY2019-2021 Youth Service Bureau Enhancement Grant Program application for funding offered by the Connecticut State Department of Children and Families and any subsequent amendments and modifications, between the Town of Tolland and DCF.

Seconded by Christine Vincent. All in favor. None opposed.

- 8.4 Consideration of a resolution to authorize the submission of an application for the FY2019- 2020 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Local Prevention Council Grant, in the amount of \$3,907.40.

Ms. Dunn commented that this is for prevention council work. They have a local prevention council, and they do a lot of things, ex. positive youth development, education for residents, youth and parents on different items. This year, they will be focusing on mental health, which has been brought into the fold of prevention.

Tammy Nuccio motioned to accept the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Tolland Town Manager, and in his absence the Acting Town Manager, is hereby authorized to make, execute and approve on behalf of the Town of Tolland the FY2019-2020 Youth Service Bureau Local Prevention Council Grant application for funding offered by the



Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and any subsequent amendments and modifications, between the Town of Tolland and DMHAS or their administering organization, AMPLIFY, Inc.

Seconded by Christine Vincent. All in favor. None opposed.

8.5 Appointments to vacancies on various municipal boards/commissions.

Tammy motioned to accept the following:

Resignation Letter from Vincent Tursi (Tolland Water Commission) effective August 16, 2019.  
Resignation Letter from Anthony Ciccone (Recreation Advisory Board) effective immediately.

Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.

9. **OLD BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):** None.

10. **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER (A WRITTEN REPORT SHALL BE PROVIDED THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE MONTH ONLY):** Mr. Werbner had nothing to add, but Ms. Nuccio had some questions. With regard to the Assessor's section of the report, it mentions that they have twenty-one new applications for crumbling foundations, and that they have added eleven houses back. This mean eleven houses have had their crumbling foundations fixed. She asked if they had an offset value. Mr. Werbner said not yet. They need to wait and see how many final applications are received. They will provide that information when it is available. She asked how many houses are in the queue. Mr. Werbner will get her that information. Ms. Nuccio asked Mr. Werbner to explain the savings from Honeywell, and what happens if the savings fall short.

11. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 11.1 July 23, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes: Tammy Nuccio moved to adopt the *amended* minutes; **Mr. Reagan commented that he was in attendance at the July 23, 2019 meeting. His name was omitted from "MEMBERS PRESENT".**

Seconded by Christine Vincent. All in favor. None opposed. Paul Reynolds abstained.

- 11.2 July 30, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes: Tammy Nuccio moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by John Reagan. All in favor. None opposed.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL:** See attached e-mails.

13. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** None.

14. **COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILPERSONS:** With regard to Sustainable CT, Brenda Falusi said that in order to get some of their points and stay active in the program, they would like to have the Council get together and discuss how to appoint a Poet Laureate and Art and Culture Liaison. She suggested creating a sub-committee to discuss how they will do that, and then present it to the Council for approval. David Skoczulek, Tammy Nuccio and Brenda Falusi volunteered.

**Brenda Falusi motioned to add an Executive Session to the agenda to discuss a personnel matter. Seconded by Tammy Nuccio. All in favor. None opposed.**

David Skoczulek said he knows the DEP and Eastern Highlands are working on the well issues. Is CRCOG talking about this yet? Also, what is happening with the captive funding? It appears to be running out. Will it get replenished?

*Mr. Werbner said the Legislature did not pass any additional dollars. Probably by the end of this fiscal year, there will be a discussion had as to how the future will be handled. They had thought that the monies would*



*have lasted five years, when it only lasted 1 ½ years. The demand has been much quicker than the Legislators had thought.*

**15. PUBLIC LISTED PARTICIPATION** *(on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council)*  
*(3 minute limit):*

**Kate Vallo of 80 Tolland Green:** She talked about the last meeting held prior to the budget referendum. She remembers one, if not more, Council members saying that if additional monies came in, some of those funds would go towards the BOE. She wishes someone 'seconded' Ms. Falusi's motion.

**George Eldridge of Fish & Game Road:** He spoke about the numbers regarding the crumbling foundations. It is only going to get worse for our tax dollars. He also has the well problem, so he would like to see some money put into a fund for that. He asks that they make a vote and just get it over with so that everyone knows where they are.

**Sam Adlerstein:** He said when he listens to the dialog; it sounds like it is someone else's school system, and language matters. With regard to Mr. Reynolds' FOIA request, he said they spent the better part of a meeting trying to answer that. He said answers are attached to the meeting notes. He said they need to ask themselves if they are okay with what is happening within the school district. They feel like they are one resignation away from a disaster. You can't run a school system without good curriculum in place. They have tried to do that for a few years, but it isn't sustainable. He wanted to try to get the BOE's perspective into the conversation tonight without them being a party to the dialog. He asked that they entertain four (4) questions: 1. What caused the unbudgeted state education funding; 2. To what degree is this funding important to continuing the quality of education in Tolland; 3. What is the downside of eliminating funding for ongoing operations; and 4. What is the downside of limiting funds of non-recurring expenses. With regard to the stabilization fund, he doesn't know a lot about it, but he does know they do have an unassigned reserve fund. He has a lot of concerns about letting the school district take the path it is taking.

**Colleen Yudiachak:** With regard to the FOIA request, Mr. Reynolds was looking for details on line items, costs, account changes, dates, delivery, etc. It is summertime, and the Superintendent and Business Manager have a lot that they are doing. They don't want to go down a slippery slope, they want a partnership. Student enrollment is going up. She does remember some of the Council members saying they would support some of the education items requests, but know they are talking about more capital items. She thanked Mr. Werbner for his service and wished him good luck in his future.

**15A. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Christine Vincent** motioned to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter at 8:55 p.m., ending the Regular Meeting of the Town Council. Seconded by Brenda Falusi. All in favor. None opposed.

*It was determined that the topic for Executive Session did not fit the criteria for an Executive Session.  
The session ended at 8:59 p.m.*

**16. ADJOURNMENT:** Brenda Falusi moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Christine Vincent at 8:59 p.m. All were in favor.

---

David Skoczulek, Vice-Chair

**Michelle A. Finnegan**  
Town Council Clerk

**From:** DOOLEY PHILIP G JR [REDACTED]

**To:** Beverly Bellody <bbellody@tolland.org>; town council@tolland.org <town council@tolland.org>

**Subject:** Used EVs

**Date:** Sat, Aug 3, 2019 12:30 am

---

<https://www.designnews.com/content/pre-owned-electric-vehicle-models-provide-affordable-way-go-electric>

**From:** DOOLEY PHILIP G JR [REDACTED]  
**To:** towncouncil@tolland.org <towncouncil@tolland.org>  
**Subject:** Fw: Download the Guidebook on Equitable Clean Energy - in prep for the "Climate Action Planning" Webinar - August 7th  
**Date:** Tue, Aug 6, 2019 3:25 am

---

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Edward Saltzberg and the Security and Sustainability Forum  
<esaltzberg@securityandsustainabilityforum.org>

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, August 5, 2019, 6:30:50 AM EDT

**Subject:** Download the Guidebook on Equitable Clean Energy - in prep for the "Climate Action Planning" Webinar - August 7th



**SECURITY & SUSTAINABILITY FORUM**

*Convening Global Experts to Guide Decision Making*

[View as Webpage](#)



**Can't make the webinar? Register anyway to get the link to the recording.**

## Climate Action Planning

*Creating Low Carbon Resilient Communities*

August 7, 2019

1:15 to 2:45 PM EDT

*Eligible for AICP Certification Maintenance Credits*

The webinar co-sponsor, Cadmus, developed the *Guidebook on Equitable Clean Energy for Local Government* for the Urban Sustainability Directors Network [Download it here](#)

REGISTER for the WEBINAR





## An Island Press Webinar Series

With climate-related protections and programs under attack at the federal level, it is critical for cities to address climate impacts locally. Every day there are new examples of cities approaching the challenge of climate change in creative and innovative ways—from rethinking transportation, to greening city buildings, to protecting against sea-level rise.

In *Climate Action Planning*, co-authors Adrienne Greve and Tammy Seale discuss new examples of implemented projects to highlight what has worked and the challenges that remain. A completely new chapter on vulnerability assessment will help each community to identify their greatest risks and opportunities. Sections on land use and transportation have been expanded to reflect their growing contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. The guidance in the book is put in context of international, national, and state mandates and goals. Boswell, Greve, and Seale also look at process and communication: How does a community bring diverse voices to the table? What do recent examples and research tell us about successful communication strategies?



*Climate Action Planning* is the most comprehensive book on the state of the art, science, and practice of local climate action planning. It should be a first stop for any local government interested in addressing climate change. Published by Island Press.

REGISTER

## Meet the Panelists





## Adrienne Greve

## Tammy Seale

Tammy Seale and Adrienne Greve will join us on August 7th to talk about new examples of cities approaching the challenge of climate change in creative and innovative ways—from rethinking transportation, to greening city buildings, to protecting against sea-level rise, to vulnerability assessments that help each community to identify their greatest risks and opportunities. Their guidance contextualizes international, national, and state mandates and goals.

**Tammy L. Seale** is an Associate Principal at PlaceWorks where she directs the firm's Climate Action and Resiliency Practice. She is a leader in the field of local climate action and resiliency planning with over 25 years of local environmental and land use planning experience. She collaborates with communities to address sustainability, climate change, and resiliency, holistically in local environmental and land use plans and implementation programs.

**Adrienne I. Greve** is Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. She led studio courses that assisted California communities in preparing climate action plans and continues to develop curricula for integrating climate action planning throughout the planning program.

*Climate Action Planning* is the most comprehensive book on the state of the art, science, and practice of local climate action planning. It should be a first stop for any local government interested in addressing climate change. Published by Island Press.

## Sabine O'Hara



**Sabine O'Hara** is Dean and Director of Landgrant Programs for the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). She is responsible for academic, research and community outreach programs in the tradition of land-grant universities. Sabine is leading UDC's efforts for building a cutting edge model for urban agriculture that improves the quality of life and economic opportunity for urban populations.

## Moderated by Chad Laurent

**Chad Laurent** is a Principal at the Cadmus Group and specializes in renewable energy law and policy, sustainable business strategies, and renewable energy project development. Chad works with corporate, university, nonprofit, and municipal clients to develop 100 percent renewable, net-zero, renewable energy supply,



and procurement strategies. He has provided legal and policy consultation on national renewable energy programs from Azerbaijan to Vietnam.



REGISTER

**Thank you to our webinar co-sponsors.**



**CADMUS**

**And promotion partners**

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
ADAPTATION PROFESSIONALS



American Planning Association  
**National Capital Area Chapter**



I hope you'll join us.

Sincerely,

Edward Saltzberg, PhD  
Managing Director  
Security and Sustainability Forum  
[www.ssfonline.org](http://www.ssfonline.org)

[esaltzberg@securityandsustainabilityforum.org](mailto:esaltzberg@securityandsustainabilityforum.org)

See what's happening on our social sites



The Security and Sustainability Forum | 1006 N Tuckahoe Street, Falls Church, VA 22046

[Unsubscribe philip.dooley@snet.net](mailto:philip.dooley@snet.net)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by [esaltzberg@securityandsustainabilityforum.org](mailto:esaltzberg@securityandsustainabilityforum.org) in collaboration with

From: DOOLEY PHILIP G JR [REDACTED]

To: John Littell <jlittell@tolland.org>; Dr. Walter Willett <wwillett@tolland.k12.ct.us>; townccouncil@tolland.org <townccouncil@tolland.org>; Pat Wilson Pheanious <pat.wilsonpheanious@cga.ct.gov>; Dan Sen. Champagne <dan.champagne@cga.ct.gov>; Mark Summers <mark.summers@mastercam.com>; Steve Werbner <swerbner@tolland.org>

Subject: Fw: SAVE THE DATE: Union of Concerned Scientist and SSF Team up on Heat - September 9, 2019 Webinar

Date: Tue, Aug 6, 2019 9:50 pm

---



**SECURITY & SUSTAINABILITY FORUM**

*Convening Global Experts to Guide Decision Making*

## SAVE THE DATE!

*Heat isn't just heat. It is also illness, power outages, extreme rain, tornadoes, flooding, wage loss, new disease vectors, other impacts...*

### Killer Heat in the United States: The Future of Dangerously Hot Days

Septembers 09, 2019  
1:15 to 2:45 PM EDT

Register for the Webinar



heat-trapping emissions.

The United States is facing a potentially staggering expansion of dangerous heat over the coming decades. This Union of Concerned Scientist analysis, *Killer Heat in the United States: The Future of Dangerously Hot Days*, shows the rapid, widespread increases in extreme heat that are projected to occur across the country due to climate change, including conditions so extreme that a heat index cannot be measured. The analysis also finds that the intensity of the coming heat depends heavily on how quickly we act now to reduce



# July 2019, the Hottest Month on Record

The report includes a tool where you can compare the temperature impacts of climate changing your community in the United States under a number of scenarios. If we don't change the current GHG emissions trajectory,

Washington, DC, where I reside, will see 100-degree days jump from 5 to 37 by midcentury with 20 days over 105 degrees. That is a wake-up call if I ever heard one to take bold action now to dramatically reduce emissions and prevent the worst from becoming reality.

Join SSF and UCS scientists and report authors [Dr. Rachel Licker](#), Senior Climate Scientist and [Dr. Rachel Cleetus](#), UCS Policy Director in a review of the report methodology, projections and concepts for adaptation.

## Extreme Heat & Climate Change

HOW OFTEN WILL YOU ENDURE EXTREME HEAT WHERE YOU LIVE?

This tool shows the rapid increases in extreme heat projected to occur in locations across the US due to climate change. Results show the average number of days per year above a selected heat index, or "feels like" temperature, for three different time periods: historical, midcentury, and late century.

The results highlight a stark choice: We can continue along our current path, where we fail to reduce heat-trapping emissions and extreme heat soars, or we can act decisively now and stop the worst from becoming reality.

TYPE IN YOUR LOCATION (CITY OR COUNTY):

q

CHOOSE HOW HOT:

Above 100°

GO

Data are drawn from the July 2019 report, [After Heat is the United States' Climate Crisis and the Future of Unseasonably Hot Days](#).

Register for the Webinar

**Union of  
Concerned Scientists**  
Science for a Healthy Planet and Safer World



SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING  
& APPLIED SCIENCE

Environmental &  
Energy Management Institute  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCE



I hope you'll join us.

Sincerely,

Edward Saltzberg, PhD  
Managing Director  
Security and Sustainability Forum

[www.ssfonline.org](http://www.ssfonline.org)

[esaltzberg@securityandsustainabilityforum.org](mailto:esaltzberg@securityandsustainabilityforum.org)

See what's happening on our social sites



The Security and Sustainability Forum | 1006 N Tuckahoe Street, Falls Church, VA 22046

Try email marketing for free today!

**Lynn Bielawiec**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 11, 2019 10:23 PM  
**To:** Town Council; Steve Werbner  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [POSSIBLE SPAM] Education Cost Sharing Funds

**Importance:** Low

Dear Town Council,

I am Kate Howard-Bender, and I live at [REDACTED]

I am contacting you as a parent first, and then as a Board of Education member. I feel the need to address a few concerns, here in a letter.

First of all, based on the way that the budget referendum increase was decided by the Town Council and Town Manager, the work and efforts of the Board of Education were summarily dismissed. The budget that the Board of Education put together had the best interest of the schools in mind, schools which serve approximately 20% of the population of the town. At first blush, we requested a 2.99% increase, which still resulted in a total budget **below** the 2016 Board of Education Budget (three years ago). This budget increase was approved by the Board of Education by a vote of 8-1.

In accordance with the town budgeting process, we submitted our budget request in February 2019. We received a few signs from the state via the governor's draft budget that our Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding might be reduced more drastically than previously promised. The Town Council indicated that they would, based on the state's *draft* budget, instead of a 2.99% increase for the Board of Education, would be comfortable with a total of 3%, leaving the schools with a 0.54% increase. The BoE quickly scrambled given the timeline for referendum, and requested a 1.8% increase. This was altered by the Town Council to a 0.8% increase; this arbitrary number was driven 100% by mill rate, and not based at all on the needs of the residents of the town. Based on this course of events, it is clear that the majority on this Town Council prioritizes Mill Rate and taxes over the quality of education in our town. By being unwilling to work with the Board of Education, which comprises about 70% of our total town budget, the Town Council has made it even more unnecessarily challenging for the Board of Education to do their job and fulfill their goals.

It is of note that the "town side" of the budget has increased, including hiring an assistant for the town planner, a position that will be discussed at the 8/13/19 meeting.

After the town referendum, which passed on the first attempt, our state senators advocated for Tolland in order to ensure that Connecticut *did not* reduce our Education Cost Sharing grant faster than they had agreed to two years previous. The amount that the state is going to allocate to Tolland for the Education Cost Sharing grant is \$568,966. This is NOT free money, for the Town Council to arbitrarily allocate. I fear that the Town Council is hiding behind the fact that the referendum had passed in order



to avoid allocating the money to its intended educational purposes. The purpose of the money is as follows, according to Connecticut State statute 10-262i (subsection c):

<https://codes.findlaw.com/ct/title-10-education-and-culture/ct-gen-st-sect-10-262i.html>

*"(c) All aid distributed to a town pursuant to the provisions of this section and section 10-262u shall be expended for educational purposes only and shall be expended upon the authorization of the local or regional board of education and in accordance with the provisions of section 10-262u\*..."*

On June 26, the Town Manager on behalf of the Town Council sent an email to all the Boards and Commissions, which read as follows, *"As you may be aware following approval of our budget at referendum, the State adopted a budget and returned to the Town \$568,966 in revenue that the Governor in his budget had proposed be reduced. The Town Council is now deliberating as to what to do with the additional revenue and is requesting input from all Boards and Commissions of the Town. There are no state imposed restrictions on the use of funds. The increased revenue source is identified as the Education Cost Sharing Grant. Any suggestions you may have on the use of funds can be forwarded to Steve Werbner, Town Manager at [swerbner@tolland.org](mailto:swerbner@tolland.org). Your efforts on behalf of the Town are greatly appreciated."* Based on this email, one would surmise that the Town Council might think that the Education Cost Sharing grant is "free money," as opposed to being money that the state has allocated to the town to offset the cost of education. If we do not use this money for its intended educational purpose, I also fear the state will be less likely to give it to us in the future.

On July 7th, after discussing the *email* from the Town Council and Town Manager, the Board of Education leadership, on behalf of eight Board of Education members, requested that the Town Council allocate the funds according to the 1.8% compromise budget, after discussing this in **open session** at a Board of Education meeting. To this date, we have not heard back, except to show up as a "line item" request in the materials you have provided for the 8/13/19 meeting.

It also must be mentioned that multiple attempts by the chair and co-chair of the Board of Education to meet in public session have been ignored and/or denied by this Town Council. The Board of Education and Superintendent are now in the final preparation for setting up a new school year (without even considering the enormous amount of planning and preparation to continue to manage the Birch Grove situation), and August 13th is the **first time** that the Town Council (alone, and not with the Board of Education) will discuss in Open Forum what will happen to the Education Cost Sharing funding. At this point in the education hiring season, even if the funds were appropriately allocated to educational purposes as articulated in the law, it would be difficult or even impossible to find a qualified and honorable candidate to come in and work as an Instructional Leader, as many of the Town Council and countless more residents have purported to support.

My overall statement is that I have grave concerns about the motives of this Town Council. Based on the behaviors of the Town Council and the fact that they have not been willing to sit down with the Board of Education to appropriately deliberate the best use of the Education Cost Sharing Funds, it is clear to me as a parent, as an educator, and as a tax-paying citizen of the town, that the Town Council is actively willing to allow the quality of educational services to degrade. We will only succeed as a group of citizens when we work together; divisive and negative talk is not going to serve our

neighbors. Saving the Education Cost Sharing funds or using it for purposes other than education would be a serious dereliction of the Town Council's duty.

Since the voice of the Board of Education has not been seemingly heard regarding the disposition of the Education Cost Sharing funds, my husband and I, on behalf of our two children in the schools, would like to know how the Town Council is going to use them.

Thank you for your time. My family is anxious to know what you have planned. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on 8/13/19.

Regards,  
Kate Howard-Bender



**From:** Sam Adlerstein [REDACTED]

**To:** town council <towncouncil@tolland.org>

**Cc:** Walter Willett <wwillett@tolland.k12.ct.us>; Colleen Yudichak <cyudichak@tolland.k12.ct.us>; Moran Karen <kmoran@tolland.k12.ct.us>; Adlerstein, Sam <sadlerstein@tolland.k12.ct.us>; Michelle Harrold <mharrold@tolland.k12.ct.us>; khoward-bender <khoward-bender@tolland.k12.ct.us>; Pagoni Robert <rpagoni@tolland.k12.ct.us>; jpasini <jpasini@tolland.k12.ct.us>; cplourd <cplourd@tolland.k12.ct.us>; Schroeder Jeffrey <jschroeder@tolland.k12.ct.us>; Steven Werbner <swerbner@tolland.org>; Michael Wilkinson <mwilkinson@tolland.org>

**Subject:** 8/13/19 Item 8.2 Discussion on timeline for determining disposition of additional FY 2019-20 Revenues

**Date:** Mon, Aug 12, 2019 12:49 pm

---

August 12, 2019

Dear Town Council,

I'm reluctant writing this because directly working together is always better. Sending emails or using Public Participation to state my case may just come across as oppositional, even when it's an attempt at achieving the best outcome for all residents. The Board has asked that you act quickly to appropriate state education money needed for continued school quality in Tolland. Thank you for including the topic on your agenda. Regardless of what you decide, would you include your answers to the following questions at tomorrow's meeting? The wording of each is intended to introduce the Board of Education point of view into the decision. Even better, many Board members will be at your meeting tomorrow, so perhaps we can entertain these questions together.

1. What caused this unbudgeted State Education funding?
2. To what degree is this funding important to the continuing quality of education in Tolland?
3. What is the downside of limiting funding for ongoing operations and instead funding non-recurring expenses?
4. Why do many residents, including the Board of Education, consider this decision urgent and overdue?

To limit surprises and to aid in your preparation, I humbly provide my perspective on these questions at [this link](#). The Board is asking for only a portion, \$382,501, of the unappropriated state education funding. That way the biggest issues to the system can be avoided. The remainder of the money can be used by the Council for other purposes. In this way, it continues the balance for residents that elected officials have committed to.

Thank you for your consideration and for entertaining a robust, interactive discussion of decision rationale.

Respectfully,

Sam

Board of Ed: Please do not reply to this email



## 8/13/19 Item 8.2 Discussion on timeline for determining disposition of additional FY 2019-20 Revenues.

### **1. What caused this unbudgeted State Education funding?**

The Governor's initial proposal included reduced funding to Tolland. However, that reduction was not expected to carry through the legislative process. The higher level of funding was known for certain by early June. We fought hard for the higher level of funding two years ago. Through the 2019 legislative process, legislators and legislative leaders indicated that the funding would most probably be included. Ultimately, the funding was preserved in order to avoid the damaging local education systems. We made the argument and convinced State legislators. It is now necessary to carry through locally on this State intent. It would be inconsistent to say the least to now explain to the State that the education funding we fought to preserve is really not needed, or can be appropriated for purposes outside of educating students.

### **2. To what degree is this funding important to the continuing quality of education in Tolland?**

We are facing some high priority issues in our school system. Addressing them now would reduce cost and best help students in the long run. We lack intervention specialists at the middle and high school. This will cause more and more students to fall behind. When students fall behind like this, expense goes up, standardized testing goes down, and harm is done to individual students. It is far easier to prevent a student from struggling than to try to address the issues only after a student has fallen well behind. Classroom teachers will do their best, and need to balance that against the impact on holding up the entire class. Similarly, systematic curriculum support will ensure the highest quality experience for all students. Without this, students have different experiences depending upon the teacher they are assigned. Students then have differing preparedness for the next level. The curriculum that we have invested so much in over the past years can easily unravel, and we are now entering our third year without sufficient curriculum support. This can not continue indefinitely. Lastly, pay for participation fees are planned to increase. That additional burden put on families is only done mindfully, and only when absolutely necessary. To residents who don't follow closely (and even to Council members). An increase in these parent fees is a message that cuts have already been made to greater priorities that impact fundamental teaching and learning.

### **3. What is the downside of limiting funding for ongoing operations and instead funding non-recurring expenses?**

If the goal is to preserve quality of education in Tolland, the investment needs to be in teaching and learning on an ongoing basis. It would require adding back those recurring costs that are being reduced. The Board continues to ask that the Council share in this goal by appropriately weighing the impact of mill rate decisions against the impact at each level. The Board would gladly participate in that robust discussion as was done in the budget process prior to this year. Lacking that input, the decision is at risk of being made based on only the easy to see financial parameters that are likely to increase the mill rate in the long run.

### **4. Why do many residents, including the Board of Education, consider this decision urgent and overdue?**

School Districts put their system in place during the summer. Logistical considerations include class assignments, course offerings and teacher training schedules. Once the school year begins, it's difficult to make those changes. In addition, the manner this decision is made sends a message to the Staff and Administration. When the funding decision is not addressed, or even not addressed on a timely basis, it's a signal from elected leaders about priorities and value. On the flip side, a public process that is transparent in its thinking, that carefully weighs important decisions and that explicitly shows staff how much they are valued, will build loyalty.



**From:** Claudette Morehouse [REDACTED]  
**To:** Steve Werbner <swerbner@tolland.org>; Town Council <towncouncil@tolland.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Well water  
**Date:** Mon, Aug 12, 2019 10:07 pm

---

RE: well water

After sending emails to your office and DEEP dated Aug 5th, i did receive an email on Aug 8th with my results which showed levels are still significantly elevated. But what is also disturbing is that not only did they take water samples on June 17th, the lab received the samples on the 18th and started analyzing that day with testing on 6/25 and completing on 7/1. So for 38 days it sat on someones desk. and all they can say is "sorry" . with no follow up from the town is also disappointing, as this is a town issue not just mine. They also mentioned that they now need to test other area wells. I feel this will take years to resolve at this rate, really 8 weeks for a water test.

So with tomorrows council meeting with the extra funds on the agenda as to where it should be spent, i am asking that some of it be set aside for this issue.

I am also requesting the Town, knowing of this issue, consider stop using this chemical for winter road treatment and go back to sand use only. until the state can come up with answers. To continue using it knowing the risk of contaminating wells would be negligent to say the least. Ex; people knew of the crumbling foundations but kept using the stone from the quarry, if you know this chemical is bad then stop using it. put that extra \$\$ into a solution. This will be the next crisis.

Claudette Morehouse  
[REDACTED]

On Monday, August 5, 2019, 09:13:24 AM EDT, Claudette Morehouse [REDACTED] wrote:

it was my impression that this matter was of some importance other than just to myself. They wont contact me if they arent doing anything! ive emailed them for information on water test results and responses were, 'no results yet' and 'lack of resources'. i emailed them this morning and asked for them to locate "my water sample" and update me as to where it is and if testing has even actually begun or is it sitting in someones office. if it takes this long for water testing how long would it take for someone to find out cause and solution? This is a health concern for me and my family.

thank you  
Claudette Morehouse

On Monday, August 5, 2019, 08:48:02 AM EDT, Steve Werbner <swerbner@tolland.org> wrote:

Claudette we were under the impression DEEP was in contact with you. We will check with them on the status and ask that they contact you.

Steven Werbner

Town Manager  
Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 5, 2019, at 12:13 PM, Claudette Morehouse

[REDACTED] wrote:

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Claudette Morehouse [REDACTED]  
To: Town Council <[towncouncil@tolland.org](mailto:towncouncil@tolland.org)><<mailto:towncouncil@tolland.org>>>

Sent: Monday, August 5, 2019, 06:37:44 AM EDT  
Subject: Well water

To whom cares.

Sorry, but i am growing frustrated daily. CT Dep did a water test on June 17th, i have yet to receive any results, i have sent emails and was told they have a 4-6 week turn around, i am in week 7, and was also told they don't have resources as private companies to expedite these tests. Winter is going to be here soon enough and with the town dumping more of this chemical on the roads my levels are only going to go up. i was told not to make any repairs or changes as to pin point sources, ridiculous to have to sit and wait and not be able to do a thing don't you think. i am at the mercy of the town and state. Is there anything you can do to contact the state to expedite anything or to see whose desk my water is sitting on?

Thank you  
Claudette Morehouse  
[REDACTED]



From: Kenneth J Trice [REDACTED]

To: town council@tolland.org <town council@tolland.org>

Subject: Education Cost Sharing Funds

Date: Tue, Aug 13, 2019 12:39 pm

---

> Hello and good morning. First, my thanks to each of you for handling the navigation of Tolland through what has not been normal times. You are to be applauded for your efforts and dedication. Second, Bill, Dave and Paul please accept my gratitude for your time, patience and service to our town. As my neighbors, just thank you for stepping up and do stay involved.

>

> This brings me to the whirlwind surrounding the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) and I base my comments from the Journal Inquirer's August 10 article pertaining to the (aware that reporting may contain some inaccuracies) topic. The initial item from the article focus on whether the existing town council should decide how the 'surprise funds' of \$568,966 should be allocated. Or should this decision be left to the projected incoming town council. My take is you fine folks were duly elected for 2 years and the decision should rest with this body. Not doing so would open future town councils to undefined time frames as when choices should be made. Make the decision, period. Trust your instincts. We all deal with decisions made by previous folks all the time.

>

> My stance on this is further supported by delaying how to move forward will impact other departments and the Board of Education (BOE), causing the uncertainty that we faced in 2017. Do we really want to put our neighbors, employees and related areas through this again? I'm for stability and revising after. I vote let's go for stability and reduce impact on the planning stages within all the departments and boards in the town.

>

> As to how the funding should be spent, here is my caution. If the funding was provided by the State for education and the understanding from the State's perspectives was that it would be for education, I would tread lightly in appropriating funds to other departments. Doing so may impact our ability for help down the road, if it is perceived as counter to the expectation. There could be political risks.

>

> On the other side of this element, the funds can be look upon as 'found money' and I would suggest a compromise with the BOE and departments who are in real dire straits. Appropriate some of the funds to those agreed upon departments and with a BOE compromise the rest to the BOE. We need to help each other out as best we can. And truth be told, someone will be unhappy, but let's involve in the process.

>

> So, in short make the decision, compromise (if we can and not incur any political risk) and let's move forward. We trust you fine folks. Just do it!

>

> My thanks to each and everyone of you.

>

> Regards.

>

> Sent from my iPhone

From: Ryan Niesyn [REDACTED]  
To: town council <towncouncil@tolland.org>  
Subject: ECS Funds Allocation  
Date: Tue, Aug 13, 2019 4:30 pm

---

Hello,

Since I am unable to attend the Tuesday meeting, I would like to share my thoughts regarding the distribution of the ECS Funds.

I would love to see 100% of these funds go to Tolland's Public Safety department(s). Our Fire/EMS provide much needed services to our town; life-saving services which I do not feel it is possible to put a monetary value on.

I wouldn't say our Fire/EMS services have been "neglected", but they have certainly had to "do more with less" for far too long. My fear is that a fire engine or other piece of critical life-saving equipment may fail at a time of need, putting a person's life at risk.

The lives of Tolland residents should not come second to the "wants" of the BOE.

Thank you,

Ryan Niesyn  
[REDACTED]

From: Steven Jones [REDACTED]

To: Town Council <towncouncil@tolland.org>

Subject: Education Cost Sharing Funds

Date: Tue, Aug 13, 2019 5:53 pm

---

Good Evening,

As it has been about a month since the issues regarding these funds was raised without resolution and it is now on the agenda tonight, I would like to reiterate my opinion on the issue. The council should appropriate the Education Cost Sharing funds to the rainy day/1% funds for the BoE and Town of Tolland proportionally to the budget, if not returned in its entirety to the board of education as it has been since the inception of ECS roughly 20 years ago and is primarily granted to towns based on student populations, especially those who qualify for free/reduced lunches and are often underprivileged in our school systems. Additional information to review the purpose/intent of ECS funding can be found here from the Connecticut General Assembly's Office of Legislative Research (dated Nov. 28, 2018): <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2017/rpt/pdf/2017-R-0001.pdf>

I do not believe it is wise or prudent to wait on the next town manager or council to make this decision when we have experienced staff and leadership in our Superintendent's office, as well as the current administrative staff in the Town Manager's office to invest these dollars into our community appropriately.

Thank you for taking the time to regard my email.

Sincere Regards,  
Steve Jones  
[REDACTED]